

MODULE TITLE	American Politics and Society since 1968		
Module Code	14-6163-00S		
Level	6		
Credit Points	20		
Indicative Assessment Tasks & Percentage Weightings	Model A. Two Tasks: Task 1: Essay (50%) Task 2: examination: (50%)		
Pre-Requisite Modules (if applicable)			
Delivered according to Standard Academic Calendar	Long: 2 semesters	Short: 1 semester	Other delivery pattern: <i>Please specify</i>
YES	NO	YES	

1 MODULE AIMS

- to provide a critical understanding of the principal political and social changes which have affected America since 1968
- to examine the interaction between social change and the main political parties' beliefs, programmes, and support
- to develop an ability to interpret the impact of political and social change in an historical way while taking critical account of evidence and concepts from other disciplines
- to assess critically the extent to which political and social changes have restructured the U.S.A. since 1968

2 MODULE LEARNING OUTCOMES BY THE END OF THE MODULE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO

- demonstrate a critical understanding of the workings of presidential politics in this period
- demonstrate an historical understanding of the complex composition and beliefs of the major American political parties
- evaluate the process of political change in late twentieth-century and contemporary America
- evaluate selected processes of social restructuring - involving class, race, gender and region - in America since 1968
- critically assess an interdisciplinary interpretation of the changing character of American society

3 INDICATIVE LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

12 weekly one-hour lectures will provide an overview of the main themes, guiding students through the key debates and concepts, and developing interpretations of the main political and social issues studied.

The first 6 (weekly) seminars of 1.5 hours each will explore political history. Students will analyse a variety of readings and texts and engage in discussion in order to develop their portfolio. The essay and critical evaluation will address the first three learning outcomes and will be submitted as a portfolio by week 7, carrying 50% of the module marks.

The next 6 (weekly) seminars will explore social restructuring and selected key texts offering significant, interdisciplinary interpretations of the changing character of American society. This work, focusing on the last two learning outcomes, will be assessed by a two-hour seen examination. Students will receive the examination paper one week before the examination, to allow them to prepare the material for their answers. They will be required to answer one question on one of the key interpretative texts. The examination carries 50% of the module marks.

Students will be responsible for preparing for seminars and the assessments by extensive reading of set extracts and texts and from reading lists and online resources.

Task No.	TASK DESCRIPTION	SI Code	Task Weighting %	Word Count / Duration	Final Task?
1	Essay	CW	50	2000 words	
2	Exam	EX	50	2 hours	Y

4 INDICATIVE MODULE CONTENTS / TOPICS

The module begins with the proposition that 1968 marked a significant watershed in recent American history with a shift from a political culture of rising liberal expectations and radical pressure to an increasingly conservative political order.

The following topics in political history are indicative of what will be explored:

- the political crisis of 1968
- Nixon as political manager or failed conservative
- Reaganism
- Clinton and the limitations of presidential power
- the Democratic party since 1968: composition and beliefs
- Republicanism since 1994

The following topics in social history are indicative of what will be explored:

- economic and social change since 1968
- restructuring America since 1968
- race, region and gender since 1968
- Samuel P. Huntington, *Who Are We? The Great Debate* (2004)
- Robert D. Putnam, *Bowling Alone. The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (2000)
- income, wealth and class

Individual topics are subject to modification or alteration in the light of published research and student preferences.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MODULE

FURTHER / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT THIS MODULE, INCLUDING ASSESSMENT CRITERIA DETAILING HOW YOUR PERFORMANCE IN THE MODULE WILL BE MEASURED, HOW YOU WILL RECEIVE FEEDBACK, DETAILS OF LEARNING RESOURCES AND KEY READINGS

THIS INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN

Module and Course handbook and module BlackBoard site.

NOTE THAT THIS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE FROM YEAR TO YEAR

REVISIONS

Date	Reason
May 2017	Modification DB3HU34-1617
July 2017	Operational change approved by Humanities Departmental Board 21/06/17